

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00411 301620Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 USIA-15 A-01 SS-20 AID-20

PC-04 /100 W

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P 301345Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2586

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0411

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, MZ

SUBJECT: USIS AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 395

1. AT RISK OF REPETITION, I WANT TO STRESS AGAIN IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE INFORMATION PROGRAM IN MOZAMBIQUE. ITS LACK IS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL NOW, WHEN NEW POLITICAL HORIZONS HAVE SUDDENLY OPENED AND MOZAMBIQUE POPULATION, BLACK AND WHITE, IS SUDDENLY CONFRONTED WITH NEED FOR INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT, IDEOLOGY, ADMINISTRATION, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, AFTER 40 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP AND 500 OF COLONIAL RULE. AFRICANS ESPECIALLY BEGINNING SEEK WAYS OF ORIENTING THEMSELVES TO NEW POLITICAL SITUATION, AND WITH BOOKSTORES VIRTUALLY EMPTY OF WORTHWHILE MATERIALS (THE LEGACY OF CENSORSHIP AND DRASTIC IMPORT RESTRICTIONS) THERE IS NOW AN IDEOLOGICAL VACUUM. WE CAN ASSUME, I THINK, THAT PORTUGUESE LEFT, PRESUMABLY WITH SUITABLE FOREIGN SUBSIDIES, WILL NOT DELAY LONG IN TRYING TO FILL THIS VACUUM WITH MATERIALS HOSTILE TO U.S. INTERESTS.

2. AFRICANS ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO APPLY FOR STUDY GRANTS TO AMERICA. ALL MANNER OF OTHER INFORMATIONAL AND CULTURAL REQUESTS--AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR US--SEEM CERTAIN TO MUSHROOM.

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EM THIS CONSULATE GENERAL, AS PRESENTLY STAFFED, SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE PERSONNEL OR EXPERTISE, NOT TO MENTION FUNDS, TO MEET THESE NEEDS. WHEN MOZAMBIQUE ATTAINS INDEPENDENCE, AS NOW SEEMS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN DURING NEXT FEW YEARS, WE PRESUME USUAL US CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE. BY SLASHING THROUGH RED TAPE AND SETTING UP A MODEST PROGRAM AT ONCE, TO GET INFORMATION AND IDEAS INTO HANDS OF PEOPLE NOW SUDDENLY HUNGRY FOR THEM, BEFORE PRESENT VACUUM IS FILLED BY OTHERS, U.S. COULD REAP BENEFITS WHICH MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ANY PRICE LATER.

VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, CENSORSHIP, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INDEPENDENCE, IMPORT CONTROLS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740136-0440
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974058/aaaaaggh.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LOURENCO MARQUES 395
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USIS AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE
TAGS: PINT, SCUL, MZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005